

23. 2. 14
Adam Bell, Clim of

the Clough, and VVilliam of
Cloudeste.

W.
L.
Adam Bell.

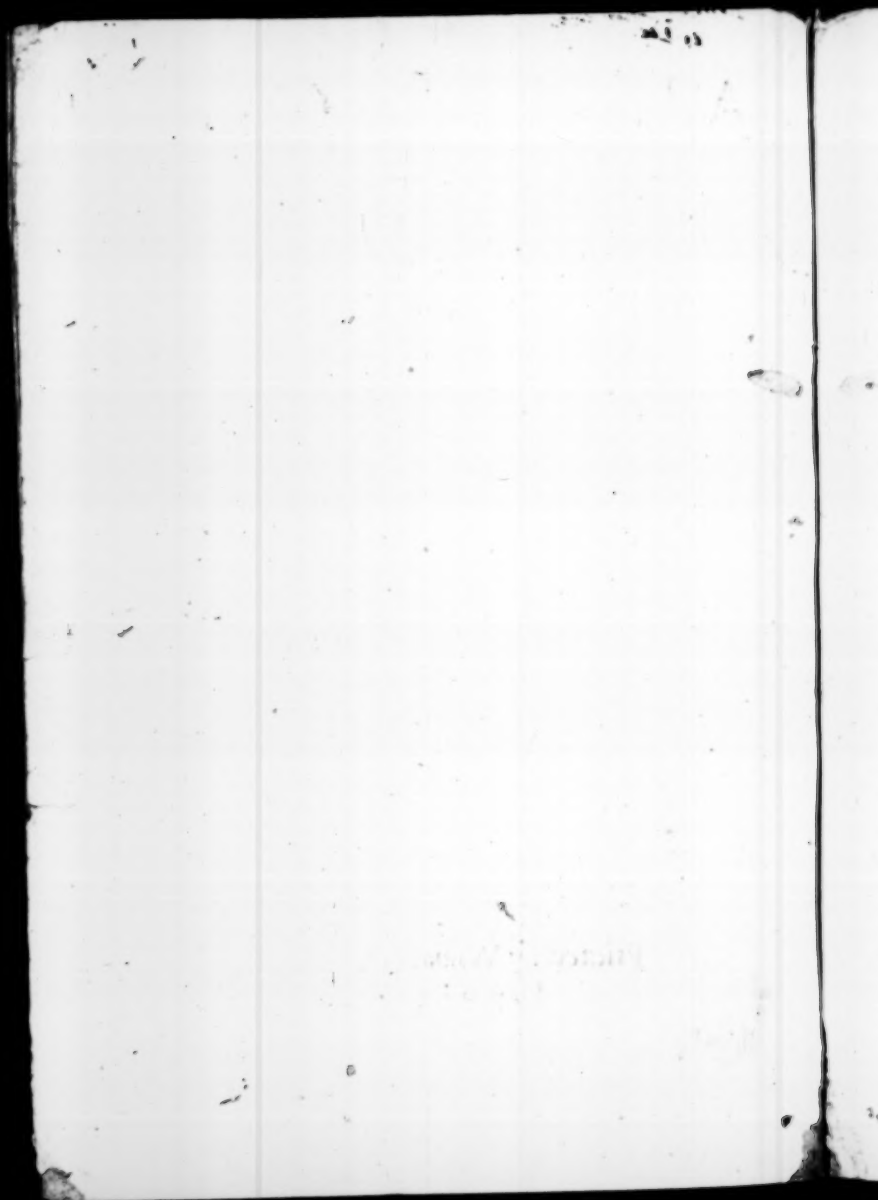
William

Clim of the Clough



AT LONDON,
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Adam Bell.



Erry it was in the greene Forrest,
among the leaues greene,
Whereas men hunt East and West
with Wolves and Arrolues keene :

To raise the Dore out of their Den,
such sight haue ought beene seene,
As by thre peomen of the North Countrey
by them it is I meane.

The one of them hight Adam Bell,
another Clum of the Clough,
The thud was William of Cloudeles
an Archer good enough.

They were outlawed for Hemison
these peomen euery chone,
They wore their Brethren on a day
to English wood for gone.

Now lith and listen Gentlemen
that of mirth loueth to heare,

Two of them were single men
the thud had a wedded seare :

William was the wedded man,
much more than was his care,

He said to his Brethren upon a day
to Carlell he would fare :

There to speak with faire Alice his wife
and with his children thre,

By my troth said Adam Bell
not by the counsell of me.

For if we go to Carlell Brother
and from this wild wood wend,

If that the Justice do you take
our life is at an end.

Adam Bell.

If that I come not to morrow byther
by prime to you againe:
Trust you then that I am tane,
or else that I am slaine.
He tooke his leaue of his brethren two,
and to Carlisle he is gone,
There he knocked at his owne window,
shortly and anon.
Where be you faire Alice he said,
my wife and children three,
Lightly let in thine owne husband,
William of Clondesse.
Alasse, then said faire Alice,
and sighed very soze,
This place hath bin beset for you
this halfe a yeare and moze.
Now am I here, said Clondesse,
I would that in I were,
Now fetch vs meate and drink enough,
and let vs make good cheere.
She fetcht him meat and drink plenty,
like a true wedded wife,
And pleased him with that she had,
whom she loued as her life.
There lay an old wife in the place
a little before the fire,
which William had found of charity,
moze than seauen yeare:
Up she rose and forth she goes
euill mote she speede therefore,
For she had set no foot on ground
in seauen yeare before.
She went into the Justice hall,
as fast as she could hie,
This night she said is come to towne

William

Adam Bell.

William of Cloudele :

Thereof the Justice was full faine
and so was the Sheriffe also,

Thou shalt not trauell hether come for naught
thy maide thou shalt haue ere thou goe.

They gaue to her a right good gowne,
of Scarlet it was I heard faine,

She toke the gift, and home she went,
and couched her downe againe.

They raysed the Towne of merry Carlell,
in all the hast they can,

And came thyronging to Williams house
as fast as they might gone.

There they beset the good yroman
about on euery side,

William heard great noyse of the folke
that thither wold fast hide.

Alice opened a back window,
and looked all about.

She was ware of the office and Sheriffe both
was with them a great rout.

Alasse, Treason, then cryed Alice,
euer woos may thou be,

Go into my chamber my Husband she saide,
sweet William of Cloudele.

He toke his sword and his buckler
his bow and his children thre,
and went into the strongest chamber,
where he thought sure to be.

Faire Alice like a louer true,
with a Pollar in her hand,

Said, he shall die that cometh in
this doore, while I may stand.

Cloudele bent a right good bow,
that was of a true try tree,

Adam Bell.

He smote the Justice on the breast
that his arrow burst in thre.

Gods curse of his hart said William
this day thy coat did on,

If it had beene no better then mine
it had beene neere the bone.

Peeld thee Cloudele said the Justice,
and thy Bow and arrowes thee fro,

Gods curse on his hart said faire Alice
that my Husband counceleth so.

Set fire on the house said the Sherife
sith no better it will be.

and burne we therein William he saith
his wife and children thre.

They fiered the house in many a place
the fire flew on hie,

Alas then said faire Alice

I see we shall here dye,

William opened a backe window
that was in his chamber hie,

And there with sheetes he did let downe
his wife and children thre :

Hane heere my treasure said William
my wife and children thre :

For christs loue do them no harme,
but wreake you all on me.

William shot so wondrous well,
till his arrowes were all agone,

And fire so fast about him fell
that his Bow string bent in two :

The sparkles bent and fell upon
good William of Cloudele :

But then was he a wofull man
and said, this is a cowards death to me

Leuer had I said William

Adam Bell.

With my sword in the rout to runne
Then here among my enemies wood
So cruelly to burne,
He took his sword and his buckler then
And among them a l he ranne,
Where the people thickest were,
He smote downe many a man.
There might no man abide his strokes,
So fiercely on them to run,
Then they threw windowes and doores on him
And so took that yeman.
There they him bound hand and foot,
And in a deep Dungeon him cast:
Now Cloudele then said the Justice
Thou shalt be hanged in hast.
One bow shall I make said the Sherife
A paire of new gallowes that I for thee make,
And all the gates of Carlell shall be shut,
There shall no man come in therat.
There shall not help Clim of the Clough
Nor yet Adam Bell,
Though they came with a thousand mo,
Nor all the Devils in Hell.
Early in the morning the Justice arose
To the gates fast gan he gone,
And commanded to shut close
Lightly every chone:
Then went he to the Market place
As fast as he could hie,
A paire of new gallowes did he there set up
Beside the Billopy.
A little Boy stood them among
And asked what ment that Gallow tree
They said to hang a good yeman
Called William of Cloudele.

That

Adam Bell.

That little boy was to wone Swineheards
and kept faire Alice Swine,
Full oft he had sene Cloudeſſe in the Wood
and giuen him there to dine.
He went out at a crevice of the wall
and lightly to the Wood he run,
There met with this wight some yong men,
ſhortly and anon.
Alaſſe, then ſaid the little Boy,
ye tarry here all to long,
Cloudeſſe is tane and damed to death,
and ready to be hanged.
Alas, then ſaid good Adam Bell,
that euer we ſaw this day,
He might haue tarried here with vs,
ſo oft as we did him pray.
He might haue dwelt in greene Forreſt,
vnder theſe ſhadowes ſhene,
And kept both him and vs at reſt
out of all trouble and tene.
Adam bent a right good bow,
a great Hart ſone he had ſlaine,
Take that child he ſaid to thy dinner,
and bring me mine arrow againe,
Now go we hence ſaid this iolly yeoman,
tarry we no longer here,
We ſhall him buy by Gods grace,
though we buy it full deere.
So Carlell went theſe good Yeomen
in a merry morning of May,
Here is one ſit of Cloudeſſe,
and another is to ſay.

And when they came to merry Carlell,
in a faire morning tide,

Adam Bell.

They found the gates shut them into
round about on euery side.

Alas, then said good Adam Bell,
that euer we were made men,
These gates be shut so wondrous well,
that we may not come therein.

Then spake Clim of the Clough,
with a wile we will vs in bring,

Let vs say we be Messengers
straight come from our King:

Adam said I haue a Letter, well
now let vs wisely marke,

We will say we haue the Kings seale,
I hold the Porter no Clarke.

Then Adam Bell beate at the gate
with strokes great and strong

The Porter heard such noise thereat,
and to the gate he throng.

Who is there said the Porter
that maketh all this knocking.

We be two Messengers said Clim of the Clough
be come right from our King.

We haue a Letter, said Adam Bell,
to the Justice we must it bring,

Let vs in our message to doe
that we were againe to the King.

Here cometh none in, said the Porter,
by him that dyed on a Tree,

Till that a false Thiefe be hanged
called William o' Cloudeste.

Then spake the good yeoman Clim of the Clough
and swore by Mary free:

If that we stand long without
like a thiefe hanged shall thou be:

Loe here we haue the Kings seale,

Adam Bell.

What lurden art thou wend:
The Porter wend it had been so,
and lightly did off his head.
Welcome is my Lords seale he said,
for that you shall come in:
He opened the gate full shortlye,
an euil opening for him.
Now are we in said Adam Bell,
whereof we are right faine,
But Christ he knowes assuredly
how we shall out againe.
Had we the keyes, said Clim of the Clough
right well then should we speed,
Then might we come out wel enough,
when we see time and need.
They called the Porter to counsell,
and wrong his neck in frow,
And cast him in a deepe dungeon,
and toke his keyes him fro.
Now am I a Porter, said Adam Bell
for brother the keyes haue we here,
The worst Porter in mercie Cadel
that came this hundred yeare.
Now we will our bowes bend,
into the towne will we goe,
for to deliuer our deere brother
that lieth in care and woe.
Then they bent their good yew bowes,
and looked their strings were round,
The market place in mercie Cadel,
they beset in that stound.
And as they looked them beside
a paire of new Gallies there they sa,
And the Justice with a quard of square,
that iudged William hanged to be.

And

Adam Bell,

And Cloudeſſe lay readie there in a Cat,
faſt bound both ſote and hand,
And a ſtrong rope about his necke
alreadie ſo; to hang.

The Juſtice called to him a Lad,
Cloudeſſes clothes he ſhould haue
To take the meaſure of that peoman
and thereafter to make his graue.

I haue ſene as great meruaile ſaid Cloudeſſe
as betwene this and pyne,

He that maketh a graue ſo; me,
himſelfe may lie therein.

Thou ſpeakeſt proudblie ſaid the Juſtice

I will thee hang with my hand.

Full well heard this his brethren two
there ſtill as they did ſtand.

Then Cloudeſſe caſt his eie aſide
and ſaw his two brethren,

At a cozner of the Market place
with their boltes in their hand,
readie the Juſtice to chaſe.

I ſee comfort ſaid Cloudeſſe
yet hope I well to fare,

If I might haue my hands at will,
right little might I care,

Then ſpake good Adam Bell,
to Clim of the Clough ſo; ſore,

Brother ſee you marke the Juſtice well,

loe yonder you may him ſee

At the Sheriffe ſhot I will,

ſtrongly with an arrow keene,

A better ſhot in merrie Carlell

this ſeauen yeare was not ſene.

They loſed their arrowes both at once,

of no man they had dread;

Adam Bell.

The one hit the Justice, the other the Sheriffe
that both their sides gan bleed.

All men voided that them stood nie
when the Justice fell to the ground,
And the Sheriffe nie him by.

either had his deaths wound,
All the Cittizens fast gan flie,
they durst no longer abide:

There lightly they losed Cloudele
where he with ropes lay tide.

William start to an Officer of the towne,
his Axe out of his hand he wung.

On each side he smote them downe,
him thought he carried all too long.

William said to his brethren two
this day let vs live and die,

If euer you haue need as I haue now
the same you shall find by me.

They shot so well that tide,
for their strings were of silke sure,

That they kept the streets on euery side,
that battell long did endure.

They fought together like brethren true,
like hardy men and bold,

Many a man to the ground they threiw,
and made many a hart cold.

But when their arrows were all gone,
Open pressed to them full fast,

They drew their swords then anon,
and their boates from them cast.

They went lightly on their way,
With swords and bucklers round

By that it was mid of the daie,

They made manie a wound.

There was manie an out-horn in Carle blotone

and

Adam Bell.

and the bells backward did ring,
Manie a woman said alas,
and manie their hands did twing.
The Paioz of Carlel forth come was
and with him a full great rout,
These Peomen dread him full soze
foz of their liues they stood in great doubt
The Paioz came armed a ful great pace,
with a Dolkay in his hand,
Manie a strong man with him was,
there in that stoure to stand.
The Paioz smote at Clauelle with his bil
his buckler brest in two,
ful manie a Peoman with great euil,
alas treason they cried foz woe.
Kepe we the gates fast they bad
that these traitoza therout not goe,
But all foz nought was that they wrought
foz so fast downe they were laid,
Til they al thow that so manfully fought
were gotten out at a braid,
Haue here your keies said Adam Bell.
mine Office here I forsake,
If you do my counsaile
a new worke do you make:
We threwe t heire keies at their heads,
and bad them euil to thine,
And all that letteth anie good Peoman
to come and comfort his wife.
Thus be the good Peomen gone to the wood
as lightly as leafe on lind,
They laugh and be merry in their wood
their enemies were far behind.
When they came to English wood
vnder the trustie tre,

There

Adam Bell.

There they found bowes ful good,
and arrows full great plentie.
So God me helpe said Adam Bell
and Clin of the Clough so free.
I would we were in merrie Catell
before that saure manie:
They sate doune and made god chere,
and eate and drunke ful wel,
Here is a fit of these twicht peomen,
another I will you tell.

As they sate in English wood
under the trustie tre,
Them thought they heard a Roman worpe
but her they might not se.
Soze then sighed saure Alice,
and said alas that euer I saw this day
For now is my deere husband gaine
alas and well away
Nicht I haue spoken with his deere byethen
of wythther of hem twaine,
As thely to them twa him besell
my hart were out of paine.
Cloudehe walked a litle aside
and looked vnder the greene wood lins
He was ware of his wylde and chyldren thys
full woe in hart and mind.
Welcom wylfe then said he
vnder this trustie tre:
I had wend yesterday by that S. John
thou shouldest me neuer had se.
Now wel is me the said that ye be here,
my heart is out of woe,
Dame he said be merrie and glad,
and thank my byethen twa

Adam Bell.

Whereof to speake said Adam Bell,

I wis it is no boote.

The meat that we must sup with all
it runneth yet fast on foote.

Then went they doleful into the lawnd,
these Noble men all thre:

Each of them slew a Hart of Grece,
the best they could there see.

Haue here the best Alice my wife,
said William of Cloudeste,

Because ye so boldly stode by me,
when I was slaine full rie.

Then they went to supper
with such meat as they had

And thanked God for their fortune
they were both merrie and glad.

And when they had supped well
certaine without any lease.

Cloudeste said we will to our King
to get vs a Charter of peace.

Alice shall be at our sojourning
in a Purtrie here beside.

By two sonnes shall with her goe
and there they shall abide.

By eldest sonne shall goe with me,
for him I haue no care.

And he shall bring you word againe
how that we do fare.

Thus be these good peomen to London gone
as fast as they might hie.

Till they came to the Kings pallace
where they would abide.

And when they came to the Kings court,
vnto the Pallace gate.

Of no man would they aske leaue,

but

Adam Bell.

but boldlie went in therat;
They proceeded presentlie into the hal,
of no man they had dread,
The Docter came after and did them cal,
and with them he gan to chide.
The Abber said, Peomen what would ye haue,
I pray you tel me:
You might make officers spent
god sirs from thence be ye?
Sir, we be out-laiues of the Forrest,
certaine without anie lease,
And hether we be come to the King
to get vs a charter of peace.
And when they came before the King
as it was the Law of the Land,
They knéled downe without letting,
and each held by his hand.
They said, Lord we beseech thes here
that ye wil graunt vs grace,
For we haue slaine your fat fallow Déers
in manie a sundrie place,
What be your names then said our King
anone that you tel me,
They said, Adam Bel, Clim of the Clough,
and William of Cloudestle.
Be ye those Whieues said our King
that men haue told to me:
Here to God I make a vow
ye shal be hanged al thre.
Ye shal be dead without mercie
as I am King of this Land,
He commanded his Officers euerie chone
fast on them to lay hand,
There they toke these god Peomen,
an accepted them al thre,

Adam Bell.

How may I thine, said Adam Bell.

This game liketh not mee.

But good Lord we beseech you now,
that ye will graunt vs grace,

Insomuch as we doe to you come
or else that we may from you passe,
With such weapons as we haue here,
till we be out of your place.

And if we liue this hundred years
we will aske of you no grace.

Ye speake proudly said the King
ye shall be hanged all three:

What were great pittie said the Quene,
if any grace might be,

O good Lord when I came first into this Land
to be your wedded wife,

The first haue that I would aske,
you would graunt me beline:

And I asked ye neuer none till now,
therefore good Lord grant it me:

How aske it Adam, said the King,
and granted shall it be.

Then good Lord if you beseech
these women grant ye me.

Adam, ye might haue asked a haue
that should haue bene worth them all three.

Ye might haue asked towers and towne,
Parks and Forrests plenty.

None so pleasant to my pay she said,
nor none so lefe to me.

Adam, with it is your desire,
your asking granted shall be,

But I had leuer haue given you
good Packet towne three.

The Quene was a glad woman,

Adam Bell.

and said, Lord gramercie.
I dare undertake so; them
that true men they shall be :
But good Lord speake some merry word
that they might comfort be.
I grant you grace then said the King
wash fellows and to meat go ye.
They had not sitted but a while,
certain without leasing.
There came two messengers out of the North
with Letters to our King,
And when they came before the king,
they knailed do bene upon their knee,
And said your Officers greet you well,
at Carloll in the North country.
How fareth my Justice (said the king)
and my Sheriffs also,
Sir they be slaine, without leasing,
and manie an Officer moe.
Who hath them slaine, said the king,
anone that you tell me.
Adam Bell, Clin of the Clough,
and William of Cloudeste.
Alas so; rath then said our king,
my heart is wondrous so;
I had leuer then a thousand pound
I had knowne this before,
so; I haue granted them grace,
and that so; thinketh me :
But had I knowne all this before,
they had bene hanged all three.
The king opened the Letter anone,
himselfe he read it tho;
And there found how these outlawes had slaine,
three hundred men and moe.

Adam Bell.

First the Justice and the Sheriffe,
and the Payor of Carlell towne.
Of all the Constables and Catchpoles,
aline were left not one.
The Bayliffes and the Beadles both,
and the Sergeants of the Law,
And fortye foresters of the fee,
these outlawes haue yslaw.
And broke his Parkes, and slaine his deere,
of all they chose the best.
So perillous outlawes as they were,
walked not by Cast nor Welf.
When the king this letter had read,
in heart he sighed sore,
Take vp the table then said he,
for I can eat no more.
The king then called his best archers,
to the Butts with him to go,
I will see these fellows that said he,
that in the North haue wrought this woe.
The kings bowmen busht them blith,
and the Quenes archers also,
So did these mightie Peomen
with them they thought to goe.
There twice or thrice they shot about,
for to assay their hand,
There was no shot these peomen shot
that any prike might stand.
Then spake William of Cloudele
by him that for me vnde,
I hold him neuer a good Archer,
that shotteth at Butts so vnde.
Whereat then said the king,
I pay the toll to me,
At such a Butt as he said,

Adam Bell.

as men be in my Countrey,
William went into the field,
and his two brethren with him,
Where they set vp two hasell rods
twenty score paces betwene.
I hold him an Archer, said Cloudeffe,
that yonder wand cleaueth in two,
Here is none such said the King,
for no man can so doe.
I shall assay fir, said Cloudeffe,
or that I further goe:
Cloudeffe with a bearing arrow
cleaued the wand in two.
Thou art the best Archer, said our King
forsooth that euer I see,
And yet for your loue, said William,
I will doe more maisterie.
I haue a son is seauen yeare old,
hee is to me full deare,
I will tie him to a stake
all shall see that be here:
And lay an apple vpon his head,
and go fife score paces him fro,
And I my selfe with a broad arrow,
shall cleaue the apple in two.
How hast thou then, said the King,
by him that diide on a tree,
But if thou do not as thou hast said
hanged shalt thou be.
And thou touch his head or golwe
in sight that men may see,
By all the Saints that be in heauen,
I shall you hang all three.
That I haue promised said William,
I neuer will forsake,

And

Adam Bell.

And there euen befoze the king,
in the earth he dyoue a stake,
And bound thereto his eldest sonne,
and had him stand still thereat,
And turned his childe's face him fro,
because he should not start,
An apple vpon his head he set
and then his bow he bent,
Sire scoze paces they were met,
and thither Cloudesle went:
There he drew out a faire broad arrow,
his bow was great and long
He set that arrow in his bow,
that was both stiffe and strong.
He prayed the people that were there
that they would still stand,
for he that shooteth for such a wager,
had need haue a steddie hand.
Such people prayed for Cloudesle,
that his life saued might be,
And when he made him ready to shot,
there was many a weeping eie.
Thus Cloudesle claue the apple in twa,
as many a man might see,
Soth God forbid then said the king
that thou shouldst shot at me.
I giue the ryg. pence a day,
and my bow shalt thou beare,
And ouer all the North Countrie
I make the chiefe Riber.
And Ile giue the ryg. pence a day, said the quene.
by God, and by my say,
Come fetch thy payment when thou wilt
no man shall say the nay.
William, I make the a Gentleman

Adam Bell.

of clothing and of sex,
And thy two brethren yeoman of my chamber,
for they are lovely to see.
Your son for he is tender of age,
of my wine seller he shall be,
And when he comes to mans estate,
better preferred shall he be,
And William byington your wife, said the queen
I long her soe to see,
She shall be my chiefe Gentle woman
to gouerne my Queerrie.
The Yeomen thanked them full courtesly,
and said to some Bishop we will went,
Of all the sinnes that we haue done
to be assayed at his hand.
So forth be gone these good Yeomen,
as fast as they can bie,
And after came and liued with the king,
and died good Yeomen all thair.
Thus endeth the lines of these good Yeomen
god send them eternall blisse,
And all that with hand bolw shotech,
that of heauen may neuer misse.

¶ E N D .

